

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01

AID-05 EUR-12 NEAE-00 SAJ-01 /088 W
----- 078575

O R 291205Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6565

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1335

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 0526

1. CAMBODIAN CHARGE MECH SARY TOLD EMBASSY JANUARY 29 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PERSONAL FRIEND IN CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYING THAT FONMINLONG BORET, ON RETURN FROM UNGA, HAD SAID HE WAS PLANNING TO WITHDRAW CAMBODIAN MISSION FROM NEW DELHI ON GROUNDS OF "RECIPROCITY" IN VIEW OF INDIAN VOTING POSITION ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION IN U.N. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT SIHANOUK'S FONMIN SARIN CHHAK ATTENDED INDIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION IN PEKING LAST WEEK AND THAT CHHAK IS NOW IN KABUL.

2. MECH SARY DID NOT KNOW WHETHER GOI IS EXPECTING CHHAK TO VISIT NEW DELHI AFTER KABUL (REFTEL) BUT AT OUR SUGGESTION HAS SAID HE WILL ASK MEA ABOUT THIS AS WELL AS
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BRIEF MEA OFFICIALS ON SITUATION IN CAMBODIA (INDIAN

PRESS AND RADIO ARE REPORTING PHNOM PENH IS TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE.).

3. MECH SARY TELLS US HE IS WRITING HIS FRIEND WHO INFORMED HIM ABOUT LONG BORET'S VIEWS (THIS SEEMS TO BE THE WAY COMMUNICATION IS CARRIED ON IN THE CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY) TO EXPRESS HIS STRONGEST OPPOSITION TO CLOSING THE MISSION HERE UNTIL THE INDIANS FORCE IT OUT. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THE MEA UNDER SECRETARY HANDLING INDO-CHINA ASKED MECH SARY WHAT THE CAMBODIANS WOULD DO IF THE SIHANOUK PEOPLE OPENED UP HERE, SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT BE A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE "TWO CAMBODIAS" TO NEGOTIATE TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. MECH SARY REPLIED THAT IF THE CAMBODIANS WANTED SUCH AN AVENUE, THEY HAD MOSCOW AS A POSSIBLE VENUE AND WOULD NOT NEED NEW DELHI. HE SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WOULD BE

COMMENT: WE STRONGLY AGREE WITH MECH SARY THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR THE GKR TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PULLING OUT OF NEW DELHI ON ITS OWN AND HOPE EMBASSY PHNOM PENH WILL STIFLE SUCH MUSINGS IF IT CAN WITHOUT "BLOWING" MECH SARY'S SOURCE. WE WILL FOLLOW UP HIGH SOURCES APPROACH TO MEA,

BRIEF THE JOINT SECRETARY CONCERNED ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA, DRAWING ON PHNOM PENH'S 1710 TO EMPHASIZE THAT COLLAPSE IS AT LEAST NOT IMMINENT, AND SEE WHETHER SARIN CHHAK IS COMING AND, IF SO, WHAT THAT BETOKENS. AT THE SAME TIME, AS WE HAVE CAUTIONED EARLIER, THE INDIAN POSITION ON SIHANOUK IS DECIDEDLY UNFAVORABLE FROM THE US VANTAGE POINT AND CAN PROBABLY DO NOTHING BUT DETERIORATE. WE MAY POSSIBLY DELAY BUT NOT ALTER THIS TREND. SCHNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE KABUL 0526 NOT IDENTIFIED.

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